

similarly directed forwards. Head dark rufous-brown, interramia and throat dull drabby or rufous; a tendency for an ill-defined lateral line on the neck to be of this latter colour. Tail broadly grizzled with black and dull buffy.

Skull strongly built, usually with peculiarly shortened muzzle and widely expanded zygomata. Teeth stout and heavy, often very much so, the thickening of the inner lobe of m^1 at a maximum.

Dimensions of the type:—

Hind foot (dry) 81 mm. Skull: condylo-basal length 88; zygomatic breadth 55; maxillary tooth-row 33; breadth between outer corners of carnassials 30; length of carnassial on outer edge 8.3.

Hab. Mountainous region of Eastern Sarawak, notably the Baram district. Type from Mt. Dulit.

Type. Old male. B.M. no. 99. 12. 9. 26. Collected 17th December, 1896, and presented by Dr. Charles Hose. Four specimens examined.

The Bornean material in the Museum seems to indicate clearly that two races of *H. brachyurus* occur there, the one olivaceous blackish without warmer suffusion, and the other more or less rufous or ochraceous. And, so far as exactly labelled specimens are concerned, the former is a lowland and the latter a mountain race. But far more specimens with exact localities are needed before the respective ranges of the two forms can be made out.

XI.—A new Genus of *Opossum* from Southern Patagonia.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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AMONG some small mammals collected by Mr. T. H. Hall at Cape Tres Puntas, on the east coast of Southern Patagonia, in south latitude 47°, there occurs, most unexpectedly, a small opossum, this locality being far to the south of any hitherto recorded for the family, the previously known southern limit having been the Island of Chiloe, 42°–43° S. The collection was sent by Mr. Hall to the Perth Museum, Western Australia, whence it has been transferred by exchange to the British Museum.

The opossum is a small animal, externally very like the Chilian opossum, *Marmosa elegans*, but close examination reveals so many differences from that as from other members

of the family, that a distinct genus should apparently be formed for its reception.

From its far southern habitat this might be called

NOTODELPHYS, gen. nov.

Allied to *Marmosa*, but of a more predaceous type, the modifications of the skull being all those associated with greater biting-power.

External characters about as in *Marmosa* (subgenus *Thylamys*). Feet proportionally more bulky. Ears and tail comparatively short, the latter incrassated.

Skull with shortened muzzle and widely spread zygomatic arches. The shortening of the muzzle, as compared with *Marmosa*, is closely parallel to that in *Dasyurus* as compared with *Phascogale*, occurring in the premolar region, and being obviously for the increase of the biting-power. Nasals expanded in their posterior third, the hinder extension not of great length. Interorbital region short, its edges quite without ridges, though there is just an indication of post-orbital knobs. Brain-case smooth, the lambdoid ridges very small. Palate imperfect opposite the first three molariform teeth. Bullæ of medium size. Lower jaw strongly bowed below, the front edge of the coronoid nearly vertical.

Upper incisors as in *Marmosa*, the first pair not longer than the others. Canines remarkably long, slender, little curved. Premolariform teeth evenly increasing backwards, but all small in proportion to the size of the skull, and set closely together, their combined length barely exceeding that of two of the larger molars, while in *Marmosa* and other opossums the length of the three anterior premolars approximately equals that of three of the molariform teeth. Molars proportionally large and heavy, their breadth about half that of the palatal space between them.

Lower incisors small, closely set, the two median ones touching each other, and the outer ones pressed for their whole length against the canines behind them. Canines long, nearly vertical, much less proclivous than in *Marmosa*. Molariform teeth large, their anterior outer cingulum unusually strongly developed.

Genotype:—

Notodelphys halli, sp. n.

General appearance not unlike that of *Marmosa elegans*. Fur not very long, but fine and close. General colour very much as in grey examples of *M. elegans*, with a dark grey

dorsal area and lighter sides. Dark shoulder and hip patches present. Under surface uniformly white to the bases of the hairs. Cheeks and a patch over eyes whitish. Ears short, rounded, flesh-coloured, a whitish patch at their bases posteriorly. Feet markedly more robust than in *Marmosa*, probably more fossorial; claw of pollex, as with the other digits, extending far beyond the soft terminal pad; in *Marmosa* it is markedly shorter than the others, and does not extend beyond the pad. Forearms and hands, ankles and feet pure white. Tail much shorter than head and body, strongly incrassated, furry like the body for three-fourths of an inch at base, then thickly clothed with short fine hairs; dark greyish brown above, whitish below and at the end.

Skull and teeth as above described.

Dimensions of the type, the external ones merely approximate:—

Head and body 144 mm.; tail 93; hind foot (wet) 16; ear (wet) 18.

Skull: greatest length 31.2; condylo-basal length 31; zygomatic breadth 20; nasals, length 13.3, middle breadth 2.7, greatest breadth 4; intertemporal breadth 5.7; breadth of brain-case 13; palatal length 17; breadth outside m^3 11.4; diameter of bulla 3.4; maxillary tooth-row 13; height of canine 4.2; three premolariform teeth 4.5; three anterior molariform teeth 6.2; oblique breadth of m^2 3.3.

Hab. Cape Tres Puntas, S.E. Patagonia, 47° S.

Type. Adult male. B.M. No. 21. 6. 7. 19. Original number 208. Collected by Mr. T. H. Hall. Received in exchange from the Perth Museum, Western Australia. One specimen.

This interesting little opossum, the most southern marsupial in the world, appears, from the structure of its skull, to be of a more carnivorous and predaceous nature than any of the other small members of the family. Ordinary *Marmosas* feed mainly on insects and fruit, and as insects are rare and fruit almost non-existent in its far-southern habitat, this opossum has had to acquire peculiar habits, and no doubt lives largely on mice and small birds.

As already indicated, the animal has the shortened muzzle that gives increased biting-power, a modification connected with this purpose throughout the Mammalia, and particularly parallel to that of *Dasyurus* as compared with *Phascogale*, even though the premolars have not in this case been reduced in number.

Besides its shortened premolar region, *Notodelphys* may be distinguished from other allied opossums by its long slender

canines, its heavy molars, its short smooth-edged interorbital space, and widely expanded zygomata.

Mr. Hall is to be congratulated on the very interesting discovery he has made, and I have much pleasure in connecting his name with the species.

XII.—A new Bat of the Genus *Promops* from Peru.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE British Museum owes to Mr. J. F. Davison, the donor and collector of several interesting European voles described by Mr. Gerrit Miller, two bats of the genus *Promops* recently captured by him at Chosica, Penn. They belong to the genus *Promops*, of which I gave a short classification in 1915*, but are not assignable to any species there recognized. The new form may be called—

Promops davisoni, sp. n.

Size intermediate between *P. occultus* and *P. fosteri*, both of Paraguay. Colour dark chocolate-brown, with lighter bases to the hairs, very much as in *P. fosteri*. Wings as long as in *P. occultus*.

Skull smaller than that of *P. occultus*, of about the same proportions; larger than that of *P. fosteri*, the brain-case not so unusually swollen as in that species.

Forearm of type 51.5 mm.; third metacarpal 55 mm.

Skull: greatest length 19.2; condyle to front of canine 17.6; maxillary tooth-row 7.4; m^1 and m^2 on outer edge 3.8.

Hab. Department of Lima, Peru. Type from Chosica, 2700'.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 21.5.21.1. Original number 207. Collected 3rd March, 1921, and presented by J. F. Davison, Esq. Two specimens.

The species of *Promops* being mainly determinable by the dimensions of their skulls and teeth, this new species may be readily distinguished by the measurements above given. No member of the genus as now restricted has been previously recorded from Peru.

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) xvi, p. 61.